

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 RABAT 01671 051207Z

66

ACTION DLOS-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-05 AGR-05 AID-05

CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 OFA-01 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 IO-10 JUSE-00 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

NSF-01 OES-03 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 TRSE-00 /113 W

----- 006876

R 051110Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO USMISSION GENEVA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5060

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY SANAA

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 1671

FOR USDEL LOS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS MO

SUBJ: LOS: MOROCCAN POSITION ON STRAITS

REF: GENEVA 2287

1. REFTEL ASKED FOR OUR ASSESSMENT OF REASONS FOR MOROCCAN
OPPOSITION TO US, USSR, UK STRAITS OBJECTIVES AND WHAT MIGHT
BE DONE TO OBTAIN EARLY SHIFT IN MOROCCAN POSITION. IN OUR
VIEW, MOROCCAN SUPPORT OF INNOCENT AS OPPOSED TO FREE
PASSAGE THROUGH STRAITS STEMS FROM COMPLEX WEB OF HISTORICAL,
GEOGRAPHIC, POLITICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL FACTORS WHICH ARE,
WE BELIEVE, ANALYZED IN BALANCED AND INSIGHTFUL MANNER IN
LAW OF SEA COUNTRY STUDY FOR MOROCCO RECENTLY RECEIVED HERE
(BGI LOS 75-5, MARCH 1975). THE BASIC DIFFERENCES BETWEEN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 RABAT 01671 051207Z

MOROCCAN SITUATION AND EXPERIENCE AND OUR OWN WOULD SEEM

TO GO LONG WAY IN EXPLAINING FACT THAT OUR APPROACHES ON STRAITS ARE AT VARIANCE. IN OTHER WORDS IT WOULD APPEAR OBJECTIVELY IMPOSSIBLE TO PERSUADE GOM THAT ITS AND OUR INTERESTS COINCIDE ON THIS ISSUE--EXCEPT, PERHAPS, UNDER UNLIKELY CIRCUMSTANCES HINTED AT PARA 3 OF RABAT 5654 NOTAL NOV. 21, 1974.

2. WE WOULD JUDGE THAT MOROCCAN TERRITORIAL DISPUTE WITH SPAIN OVER NORTHERN ENCLAVES OF CEUTA AND MELILLA IS CURRENTLY A PRIMARY CONSIDERATION IN GOM STRAITS POLICY. RELATED QUESTION OF TERRITORIAL WATERS IN VICINITY OF NORTHERN ENCLAVES IS, OF COURSE, VERY MURKY. MOROCCAN ARGUMENTATION ON ENCLAVES PARALLELS SPANISH CASE ON GIBRALTAR; SIMILARITY IN TWO COUNTRIES' STRAITS POSITIONS THEREFORE NOT SURPRISING.

3. WE ALSO HAVE IMPRESSION THAT SPANISH SAHARA ISSUE, ALTHOUGH NOT LINKED DIRECTLY TO STRAITS QUESTION GEOGRAPHICALLY OR IN LOS TERMS, NONETHELESS BEARS HEAVILY ON GOM STRATEGY ON STRAITS (RABAT 5654.) MOROCCANS MAY WELL VIEW U.S. SUPPORT VIS-A-VIS SPANISH COLONIAL PRESENCE IN AFRICA AS FUNCTION OF THEIR WILLINGNESS TO ACCOMMODATE OUR STRAITS INTERESTS. (MOROCCANS, AS NOTED RABAT 5654, HAVE IN PAST SIGNALLED APPARENT WILLINGNESS TO BE ACCOMMODATING BILATERALLY AND INFORMALLY, BUT HAVE AVOIDED SPECIFICS; WE, MEANWHILE, HAVE REFRAINED FROM PROBING ON POSSIBILITY OF FINDING UNRELATED QUID PRO QUOS.)

4. IN SEEKING TO NARROW GAP WITH MOROCCO, WE SHOULD ALSO NO DOUBT KEEP IN MIND THAT GOM WILL WISH TO REMAIN IN HARMONY TO DEGREE POSSIBLE WITH OTHER ARAB STATES WITH SIMILAR INTERESTS ON THIS ISSUE. A SHIFT IN EGYPTIAN OR OTHER ARAB POSITIONS IN OUR FAVOR WOULD CARRY WEIGHT HERE. FINALLY, FROM HISTORICAL POINT OF VIEW, MOROCCANS HAVE UNPLEASANT MEMORY OF COLONIAL PERIOD, WHICH OCCASIONALLY SURFACES AS RESENTMENT OF BIG POWERS WHICH THROW THEIR WEIGHT AROUND. IN ADDITION, MOROCCO IS GENERALLY HIGHLY ATTENTIVE TO MAINTENANCE OF THIRD WORLD CREDENTIALS, AND AVOIDS OVER-IDENTIFICATION WITH U.S. ON VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS.

5. IN LIGHT OF LOS SESSION NOW BEGUN IN GENEVA, EMBASSY HAS BEEN TRYING UNSUCCESSFULLY SINCE FEBRUARY TO OBTAIN APPOINTMENT WITH MUSTAPHA EL-GHARBI, CHIEF, LEGAL AFFAIRS AND TREATIES
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 RABAT 01671 051207Z

DIVISION AT FOREIGN MINISTRY, FOR PURPOSE OF GETTING UPDATED READING OF GOM VIEWS ON LOS QUESTIONS. GHARBI, WHO HAS IN POST PROVED DIFFICULT TO SEE, HAS AGAIN MADE HIMSELF SCARCE. GHARBI WILL PRESUMABLY BE PRESENT IN GENEVA AT LEAST FOR PART OF LOS PROCEEDINGS AND HE MAY BE MORE RECEPTIVE TO APPROACHES BY LEGAL COLLEAGUES FROM OUR DELEGATION. WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY ALSO ATTEMPTED TO DISCUSS LOS MATTERS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER; HE HAS NOT BEEN WELL VERSED IN THIS FIELD, ALTHOUGH EXPRESSING AN

INTEREST IN BECOMING INFORMED. (RABAT 4427 NOTAL, SEPT 11, 1974.) IN PURSUIT OF MY CONTACTS WITH FON MIN, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL FOR ME TO HAVE CONCISE UP-TO-DATE TALKING POINTS, PREFERABLY IN FRENCH.

6. AS TO OBTAINING EARLY SHIFT IN MOROCCAN POSITION, WE ARE NOT SANGUINE THAT THIS CAN READILY BE ACHIEVED, PARTICULARLY IN SOMEWHAT RESTRICTED CONTEXT OF LOS ISSUES, ALTHOUGH WE SHOULD OF COURSE CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR IT IN GENEVA. OUR FEELING, IN SUM, IS THAT MOROCCANS PROBABLY SEE STRAITS ISSUE AS INTIMATELY TIED TO OTHER, BROADER FOREIGN POLICY AIMS, ESPECIALLY TERRITORIAL DISPUTE WITH SPAIN OVER SAHARA AND NORTHERN ENCLAVES. NEUMANN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NEGOTIATIONS, ARCHIPELAGOES, STRAITS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975RABAT01671
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750119-0110
From: RABAT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750478/aaaacter.tel
Line Count: 128
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION DLOS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 GENEVA 2287
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <30 OCT 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LOS: MOROCCAN POSITION ON STRAITS
TAGS: PLOS, MO
To: GENEVA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006